



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Anthony B. Catalano

Atty Docket No.: 2003-01663

Serial No.: 10/683,591

Art Unit No: 2632

Filed: 10/10/2003

For: Override Protocol System For Affording Vehicle Safety & Preventing Hijacking

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 CFR § 1.102(D)

**Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.102 (d) and MPEP ¶ 708.02 VIII and XI, Applicant hereby petitions to have the above referenced patent application made special on the basis that his instant invention provides a means for countering terrorism and for safeguarding the integrity of the country. Enclosed is the petition fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17 (h).

Submitted is a Prior Art Statement Under 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98 in which the relevance of each cited reference as presently understood is explained. Applicant's counsel conducted pre-examination U.S. Patent searches with the patents found enumerated on Form PTO-1449A. A copy is enclosed of each of these patents enumerated on Form PTO-1449A deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims. MPEP ¶ 708.02 VIII (D). This searching included the following classes and subclasses: 180/287, 307/10.5, 340/426, 428, 825.72; 342/357.07; 364/428, 439; 701/23, 35.

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In view of these search results and the claims in the instant application being directed to a methodology for preventing hijacking of aircraft, ships, buses, and other commercial motor vehicles, trains, and the like — and immediate preventive and remedial action, when triggered, to frustrate hijackers' purposes and to save lives and simultaneously minimize losses — Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the prior art.

Applicant also submits that his instant invention will significantly improve the ability of government agencies and law enforcement personnel to combat terrorism. Beyond his love of country and appreciation for the urgency of combating terrorism – as a U.S. citizen -- Applicant is especially sensitive of the crucial need to safeguard the well-being of the chemical, petrochemical, and energy industries. With graduate college background in chemical engineering, and industrial experience in a variety of positions including gas plant operations, gas supply, transportation, gas control, corrosion engineering, and process engineering with Chevron, Warren Petroleum, and Dynergy, Applicant fully comprehends the urgency of insulating and protecting industry at large from terrorist threats and, indeed, from terrorist attacks.

Embodiments of this invention provide facilities to prevent hijacking by monitoring a plurality of sensors that are strategically disposed on and within such aircraft, ships, buses, trains, and other commercial motor vehicles; prompt detection of exigent circumstances such as hijacking would immediately trigger remedial and preventive action under the auspices of a central control facility and

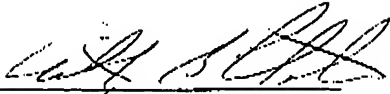
interdependent control facilities.

For an airplane, as an example, this immediate action would either disable the airplane, dump fuel, shutdown engines, or otherwise override control of operations. Similar expeditious immediate remedial action, as deemed appropriate by the authorities, would be effectuated to alter the movement of ships, buses, trains, and other commercial motor vehicles.

The preferred embodiment of my invention corresponds to a methodology for preventing airplane anti-hijacking, and is contemplated in the context of an airplane traversing airspace implicating a plurality of protected areas, under the influence of plurality of flight control centers and a concomitant plurality of air traffic control centers. Each of such plurality of protected areas is a geographical area that has been predetermined to be secure from any form of intrusion. An intrusion is contemplated to occur when an airplane or other motor vehicle deviates from its normal course of travel outside of the plurality of protected areas and is on a path that appears to imminently penetrate an area located therewithin.

Embodiments of this invention contemplate exploiting GPS or other real-time or near-real-time positioning means to monitor the progress and attitude of an airplane in real-time or near-real-time relative to its departure parameters, official flight path, arrival parameters, and any other relevant flight or travel parameters. Incipient critical aberrant behavior such as has been exhibited by suicide bombers would be intercepted and terminated in real-time or near-real-

Respectfully submitted,



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Examiner:

MAIL STOP PETITIONS
Commissioner For Patents
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VERIFIED CERTIFICATION OF EXPRESS MAILING DATE (37 CFR 1.10(c))

I hereby certify that I have, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.10, deposited the papers or fees referred to below:

- ☐ new Utility Application claiming the benefit of Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/326,258 and papers noted therein
- ☐ filing under 37 CFR 1.60 and papers noted therein
- ☐ file wrapper continuing application (FWC) 37 CFR 1.62 and papers noted therein
- ☒ petition to make special under 37 CFR 1.102 (D) and papers noted therein

and attached to this Verified Certification is a copy of these papers or fees identified above from in the file of this application with the United States Postal Service on the date of **February 5, 2004** in an envelope "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" bearing Mailing Label Number **EV319180903 US**, as shown on the attached copy of the "Express Mail" Receipt.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date 2-5-2004

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